



SERENITY

ENTERTAINMENT

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EXPERIENCE, THE MIRROR OF MOTIVE

A lecture given at Serenity Spiritualist Church on Jan. 5, 1975
through the Mediumship of Richard P. Goodwin

This morning's topic is entitled, "Experience, The Mirror of Motive." It is oftentimes seemingly difficult when having the experiences of this mundane world to associate those experiences with an attitude of mind, with a law that we as individuals have set into motion. The seeming difficulty in tracing the effect of the experiences of life back to the causes which lie within our own consciousness, the seeming difficulty and obstruction, is our own so-called self-will. All souls in form are striving to express their Divinity. It is because we have limited the fullness of God's love that we suffer in this so-called world of creation. Now the question may well arise, "How do we as individualized souls obstruct and limit the fullness and freedom of the Infinite Intelligence, known as God?" Because of our limited understanding of our own brain, we state in our minds that this way or that way is the only way for us to have a certain feeling or experience. Because we have been granted, in our evolution, what is known as self-will, because we have been granted what is known as choice, we, therefore, have become a law unto ourselves. We may choose the left path or the right path, for we have earned in our evolution that right.

However, that Divine right known as choice does not come to us without its own responsibility. When we are honest with the part of us which is the only eternal part, known as our spirit, our soul, our true self, then and then only, will we see truthfully and objectively, the cause of all experience that we encounter. Because the inward journey back to God, which is within us, is a relative new journey to most of us here on earth, it is not such an easy path to find the causes of our present experiences. And so, we have a teaching in this philosophy and that is that energy follows attention through the vehicle of thought, and that that man directs this Divine energy to increases, multiplies and grows. And so, our teaching follows to put your attention, your Godhood, upon that that you desire to become. Remove this attention, this great Infinite Intelligence called God, from that which you desire to overcome.

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Now, we may hear that great truth and find such a struggle and difficulty in application. The only struggle or difficulty in applying the truth that frees us is our unwillingness to control our own mind.

Whenever we are having an experience that is distasteful to us, that continues to repeat itself in our life, it reveals to us the degree and extent of self-control; that is, the control of our own mind, that we have, in truth, in this life been expressing. No one in this world consciously chooses to suffer. Suffering is no more or less than the effect of Divine natural laws that have been or are being transgressed. And so, the first question arises in our mind, "What are the laws that have been transgressed in my life by myself, that I may free my soul from this so-called miserable experience?" My friends, that is not the way. It does not behoove us to look at transgressions until we have risen to the level of consciousness where we can control them. And so, the first thing to do is to control the energy, your energy, which continues to create the experience that you do not choose to have consciously in your life.

Our teaching is that forgiveness frees our soul from the bondage of self. And so, the first step is, forgive yourself that you may be forgiven, for we cannot be forgiven until we have set the law into motion by forgiving ourselves, by forgiving the levels of consciousness within us that are so intolerant, lacking understanding for the path of another human soul.

Sometimes in going into a spiritual understanding we seem to become, at least we think, so illumined, and we look out at the world and we think that everyone else seems to be in darkness. Beware, my friends, that is known as the lower light of illusion created by mind stuff. So let us ever look inward, let us truly and sincerely pray for forgiveness, for there is none of us in the universe that is not in need of forgiving the transgressions that we seem to continue to make through error of ignorance.

When we pause in our thoughts and we accept in our consciousness the great eternal truth that we and we alone are a law unto ourselves, that life herself is the way that we alone make it, that life herself is every the way that we take it, we then will stop giving away to people and things our Divine right, our own Divinity. Our soul has journeyed to this earth realm to serve a purpose, and if in the transgressions that we seem to continually make, the

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THE PENETRALIA

Being Harmonial Answers to Important Questions

by Andrew Jackson Davis

Continued from last issue—

How can Wisdom, being the sum of human attributes, save man?

By opening the soul to a perception of things spiritual, angelic, celestial and heavenly. Like a peach which treasures up the perfections of the entire tree which produced it, so Wisdom attracts together all the beauties of the affections of both Love and Knowledge (as explained in 4th vol. of Great Harmonia), and thus opens the soul's portals to Infinite Love, to Eternal Truth, to Father-God, to Mother-Nature.

What benefits do believers receive from Wisdom at their death?

Pure Wisdom, having opened to the soul a glorious consciousness of the existence of a better and less rudimental world Beyond, brings a great peace into the mind and surrounds the believer's bed with many spirits and angels.

What benefits do believers receive from Wisdom at the resurrection?

At the resurrection, believers, being raised up immediately after the heart ceases to throb on earth, shall be acknowledged in the Spirit-Land by welcoming hosts of friends, and thus unlike disbelievers, be made direct partakers of that full enjoyment which the harmonious only know.

What is the duty which God requires of man?

The one true eternal Father-God requires of man faithfulness to the dictates of his highest attractions. (See questions on "Life.") To do right from a sense of duty, or obligation, or fear, as most people permit themselves to do, is far below that exalted motive which prompts noble natures to do good and speak the truth to gratify their attractions.

What are man's highest attractions?

Man's best and highest attractions take their rise in the superior part of the brain called the wisdom-region; that is, in the organs of benevolence, veneration, conscientiousness, firmness, self-respect, hope, sublimity, ideality, marvellousness, and love of Truth.

What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

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suffering in life becomes so intense that we cry like a voice in the wilderness for something better. If that is the way we set the law into motion, we will still arrive in the light of eternal freedom but let us do it, let us do it this moment, let us do it now. Yesterday has gone. You cannot change yesterday; it is a thing of the past. You cannot change a moment ago. But you can change your attitude, your acceptance, this moment. This is the great moment, my good friends, the great moment of your life, for it is the only moment of which you are consciously aware.

For many centuries there have been what people call "New Year's Resolutions." Let us have moment by moment resolutions. Let us resolve within our mind to be freed from the bondage and the chains that have bound us to the past. When we are feeling good and we are happy, we want to capture that moment; we want it to continue. The way that it continues, my friends, is dependent upon your own acceptance. You have the power, as all children of God do, you have the power within your mind to choose heaven, which is a state of consciousness, but you also have the power within your mind to choose its opposite known as hell.

When we rely upon anything, person or place outside of us, we deny our God, and when that takes place, we pay the price, and we pay dearly to such a point that in time we will walk upon the inward journey and we will find ourselves. Remember that all things outside of you are simply instruments of one Divinity. It is expressed through a vast variety of form, but when you find the God inside of yourself, then you will find that great God outside of yourself.

If you are having difficulty in finding God, then think, my friends! God is ever equal to our understanding. And so, as we expand our understanding, our God becomes more full in our lives.

Some of my students over the years have asked how to find God. They find God so thin and so distant from them. When we ask that question, we open a door in our consciousness to start upon the path where we may find that eternal light. But there are many stumbling blocks on that path; they are the stumbling blocks of man and his own self-will. If God is thin in our consciousness, then it means we are fat in our consciousness. It means that our thought, that our decision, our judgement, our intolerance, is bigger than our acceptance of an authority that holds all

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Student's Corner



by Robert Lyons*

Just to be an infant seems such a mighty goal; but life is not just a matter of one goal, a game to be won or lost. It is this moment, now, which never quite begins or ends that is part and parcel of an infinite goal which never ends.

The goal of an infant is to make it out of his crib into the expanded freedom of his playpen but once in the playpen what child doesn't long for the freedom of a greater world beyond? Life is made of barriers, the crib, pen, or backyard fence and beyond are riverbanks and greater fences.

When we are seven years of age the euphoria of being seven and a half looms large on our illusions of important goals. A goal is as often as not only the mirage such as a thirsty traveler sees out in the burning desert and cannot reach. A goal ever travels in the distance, as the moon may seem to move over the landscape to a speeding traveler. In our early youth we only understand that which our physical senses can tell us. At seven and a half, eleven seems grown up but at eleven, twenty-one is as far as the mind can go. At twenty-one we may begin to realize some of the limitation of sense imprisoned thought.

It has been said that when we are older we still don't know, but know that we don't know, and later on when we begin to learn, we know but don't know that we know, until at last we know and know we know. Perhaps what we learn is that goals are only mileposts in eternity. If our frame of reference is some job we had in our lifetime, it is advisable to ask ourself, "Did I do a good job or a poor one? Did I outgrow the job or did it outgrow me?"

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VIEWS OF OUR HEAVENLY HOME

by Andrew Jackson Davis

MISSIONARIES

THE phrase *apostle* signifies one who is sent, like a delegate or missionary, to perform some special service. It is usually employed in connection with the system called Christianity.

This mixed system was originated by the apostles; and *not*, as is so generally believed, by the spiritually minded son of Joseph and Mary. Christianity, for this very reason, has been, from the first, an inconsistent compound of elements spiritual and temporal, a curious admixture of the supernatural with the simple and common; with teachings both attractive and repulsive to Judaism on the one hand, and to the Gentiles on the other. It was the desire of the apostles to render Christianity comprehensible and congenial to both sides of the world—to the Jews, who were looking for a Messiah in the line of David, and to the Gentiles, who wanted to start free of Moses and the prophets. Paul was the most influential “apostle to the Gentiles.” The earlier apostles were anxious to Judaize the teachings of Christianity, or rather to compromise enough to convert the Jews. In order to throw the gospel net around the hard-headed Israelites, it was important to preach and exalt Jesus as the real, originally promised Messiah. But the spiritual illumination of John enabled him to perceive and to render Jesus in a new light. In continuation of Paul’s philosophical interpretation, John’s spiritualized perceptions caused him to conceive the idea that the crucified One was an intimate of GOD, that he was the very “Word that was made flesh;” which conception, to both Jews and Gentiles, as well as to people generally, even to this hour, is an incomprehensible mysticism. This conception of John, in its essence, is nothing but a reappearance in religion of the Messianic idea—another manifestation of “the Arabula;” which is the saving Principle from the Most High; the anointed in the spiritual sense; the spirit of holiness, goodness, and purity; a religious mystery known only to and by the spirit, a transcendental, spiritual consciousness, taught as a cardinal truth from God by the Essenes, a sect of pure believers and celibates, among whom Jesus spent some of the best years of his life. (It will be remembered that he was preaching and healing

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Visitors Views



"This opened a new outlook for me which I've always been curious about. It was presented well, and I now feel well informed. Thank you for letting me participate." M. S.

"This is a very different religion and it interests my mind and I wish to continue." N. V. P.

"Your contact with the spirit world today, took me back to old times. I have had many revealing experiences in times past, and a lot of help. Hope I get back to see you soon. You're doing wonderful work - keep it up!" B. T.

"This was an amazing service. It helps to confirm some of the feeling I've had about the spirit world and communication."

"Thank you."

"The service was very interesting to me as well as enlightening." J.

"I think the services were very nice." M. C.

"This service seems to be doing very much in helping people help themselves in opening spiritual doors. I'm very glad to be able to come here."

"Extremely interesting. Something that deserves much exploration on my part."

"I enjoyed your service very much. It is the first time in my life I have attended a church service out of choice rather than out of fear of not attending. It is very refreshing although I'm afraid my ability to communicate spiritually leaves much to be desired. Thank you for a fine experience." J. F.

SPIRITUALIST DICTIONARY

Rev. Stainton Moses:

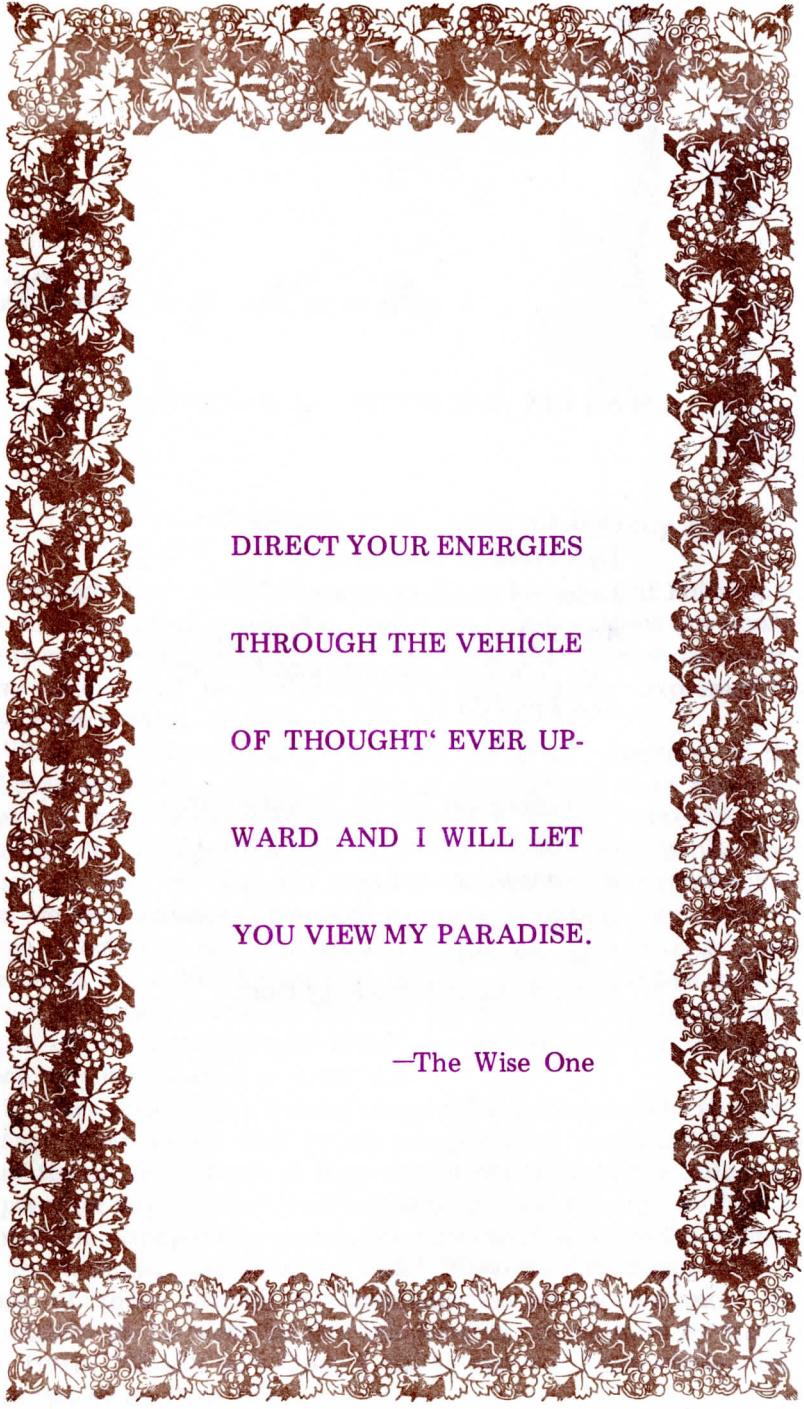
A great name in Spiritualism. A minister of the Church of England, Oxford M.A., author, and later editor of *Light*. From his original distrust of Spiritualism, he was forced by the outcome of his own mediumship to accept it. His psychic powers were amazing, powerful and varied: levitation, telekinesis, automatic writing, apports psychic lights, musical sounds, scents, and many other manifestations. He never worked for money and his habitual sitters were few: they were: Dr and Mrs Speer and Mr F. W. Percival. Occasional sitters were, Serjeant Cox, W. H. Harrison, Dr Thompson, Mrs Garratt, Miss Birkett and Sir William Crookes. The identity of the controls was kept secret until recent times. They comprised a band of spirits forty—nine strong, whose missionary effort was directed to the upliftment of the human race. From 1884 until his passing Moses was the president of the London Spiritualist Alliance in London, now changed to the College of Psychic Science. Under the pen—name of M. A. Oxon he wrote *Spirit Teachings*, often referred to as the 'Bible' of Spiritualism.

FORTUNE TELLING ACT (Vagrancy Act):

Now repealed since the introduction of the Fraudulent Medium's Act 1951. Previously, mediums were liable to punishment, but now have a legal status, and are free to practise their gifts for the benefit of humanity.

MEDITATION:

A mental discipline whereby the mind has to dwell upon a given theme, employed for the purpose of gaining insight into the inner nature and meaning of the universe. Much used by eastern ascetics, Yogis, monks and Spiritualist development circles.



DIRECT YOUR ENERGIES
THROUGH THE VEHICLE
OF THOUGHT' EVER UP-
WARD AND I WILL LET
YOU VIEW MY PARADISE.

—The Wise One

PRAAYER FOR SPIRITUAL HEALING

*I ask the great Unseen Healing Force
To remove all obstructions
From my mind and body
And to restore me to perfect health.
I ask this in all sincerity and honesty
And I will do my part.*

*I ask this great Unseen Healing Force
To help both present and absent ones
Who are in need of help
And to restore them to perfect health.
I put my trust
In the Love and Power of God.*

Healing Hands



by Sandy Johnson*

Through the wonderful teachings of the Living Light Philosophy we find the great truth that “outward manifestations are revelations of inner attitudes of mind” and that discord and disease are first accepted by us in the mental realms and then expressed by the physical form.

When we become out of balance, the great computer of the subconscious mind begins to play a programmed tape based on previous experiences. We find ourselves feeling somewhat exhausted due to a grounding in self and the tape begins to play that when we feel this way our throat becomes sore, our head aches, and we hurt all over. Then, of course, our physical form takes on these effects and we must rest and have others wait on us and care for us. In the light of reason we can see what a child-like method this is of getting attention. The very sad part of all this is that these tapes of our subconscious mind are very difficult to disengage once they have started to play.

It takes great effort through reasonable self-control to stop and change these tapes. The longer we permit a particular tape to play the more difficult it is to shut it off because the longer we express on any level of consciousness, the more energy we feed to it and the stronger it becomes. We now can clearly see the wisdom of the teaching “nip it in the bud.” When we first begin to be aware of these feelings of imbalance or illness, we must immediately go to work on our subconscious computers by stating the truth, “Thank you God, I am at peace — I am whole, com-
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the sick, or practicing his precepts, only about *three* years before he was executed by the Jews.)

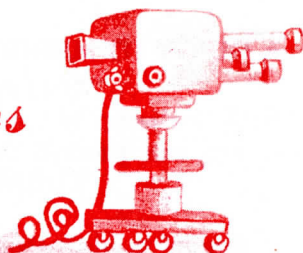
There are, however, apostles of the Spirit, and truly inspired missionaries of the Truth, in all countries and among all sects. But by this I do not mean exclusively apostles of Christianity, or of any other system organized into a form of dogma and doctrine. For it would be easier to show that a matter is perfectly consistent with Christianity than to prove it to be the truth. I would rather have one truth than a thousand texts to establish its identity with Christianity. So should we welcome and sustain the apostles of progress and reform—the advance guards and heroic pioneers of any new statement or discovery—for, by so doing, we take sides with humanity as did Confucius and Jesus, and as do all sincere natures who see and love truth as a revelation from God to the understanding.

AUTHORITIES

When there is too much familiarity and fraternal equality between officers and soldiers, there is a proportional amount of laxity in the discipline, and a very general disobedience of orders. An authority inspiring respect and insisting upon prompt obedience to the word of command, is absolutely indispensable. The individuality of the men—their personal pride, their private tastes, their great individual respectability in social life, their superior education, their dignity and weight of character—all is totally immersed in the supreme authority. Without such authority, and without such total self-abnegation of the persons voluntarily associated for a purpose, there could exist no effective cooperation. Without it, no ship could ever be sailed, no factory run, no government founded, no church organized.

But the philosopher detects the evils which accompany this necessary obedience to centralized chieftainship. The integral rights of individuals are more and more trampled down. The supremacy and success of the organization are exalted and proclaimed as of paramount importance. Individuals exist and die for the institution; not the institution for individuals. Outraged and enslaved individuals, with their private sensibilities disregarded every hour, and their most sacred desires and aspirations systematically offended and crushed, at last discover that “corporations have no souls.”

News & Views



by Duncan Robertson*

Mental imaging and association are the keys to a good memory according to *The Memory Book*, a current best-seller by Harry Lorayne and Jerry Lucas. The authors claim that most people don't actually forget things, they simply don't become fully aware of them to begin with. On the road to a good memory they teach a technique of translating what one wants to remember into a vivid mental image, and the more unusual the image the better. For example, if one wanted to remember a list of things to pick up while shopping, such as a lamp and some typing paper, the authors say, "Start a link...associate lamp to typewriter paper. Perhaps you see yourself putting a lighted lamp into your typewriter. You don't want to forget to pick up your suit at the cleaners. Continue the link; perhaps you're wearing sheets of typing paper instead of a suit." In this manner an individual can remember not only the specific items but the order in which they are to be dealt with. Lorayne and Lucas stress, however, the importance of the individual working out his own images and associations, as in so doing one reinforces the mental image for future reference and at the same time concentrates the mind upon that thing to be remembered.

For the first time in its history the California State Senate has as its presiding chaplain a Buddhist. The new official chaplain for 1975 is the Reverend Shoko Masunaga, pastor of the Buddhist church of Sacramento. It is the state senate's first departure from Judeo-Christian tradition in its appointment of a chaplain.

A GUIDE TO MEDIUMSHIP AND PSYCHICAL UNFOLDMENT

by E. W. and M. H. Wallis

'TURNED INTO ANOTHER MAN'

Samuel in his instructions to Saul clearly illustrated the nature of inspiration when he said: 'The spirit of (from) the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man' (1 Sam. x. 6.) This being 'turned into another man' is easily understood by Spiritualists who have seen mediums, under spirit control, 'impersonate' the appearance of the spirit and become so altered—transfigured, we might almost say—that the resemblance is clearly recognized by the on-looker. In 2 Esdras, x. 28, 29, 30, although regarded as apocryphal, we get the following description of a trance medium's experiences and sensations: 'Where is Uriel, the angel, who came unto me at the first? for he hath caused me to fall into many trances. . . . And as I was speaking these words, behold, he came unto me, and looked upon me. And, lo, I lay as one that had been dead, and mine understanding was taken from me; (he was unconscious) and he took me by the right hand and comforted me, and set me upon my feet and said,' &c. On another occasion he says: "Then I waked, and an extreme fearfulness went through all my body, and my mind was troubled so that it fainted. So the angel that was come to talk with me held me, comforted me, and set me upon my feet." (2 Esdras, v. 14, 15.)

Although 'Job' is now admitted to be a poem, there are some important statements which indicate the prevailing beliefs of the people. For instance, we get the remarkable description of a spirit's influence over Job in chapter iv. 13-16: 'In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, fear came upon me and trembling, which made all my bones to shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up. It stood still but I could not discern the form thereof; an image was before mine eyes; there was silence; and I heard a voice saying,' &c. This description corresponds to the shaking or trembling which many mediums experience, and which has given the names to the sects called Quakers and Shakers. The following words might well be employed by a modern trance medium: 'Therefore have I uttered that I understood not, things too wonderful for me, which I

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“Wasn’t I looking for a job when I found that one?”

Maturity is not counted years; it is a matter of question. What can life do for me or what can I do for life? Nobody can give us responsibility. We have to take it.

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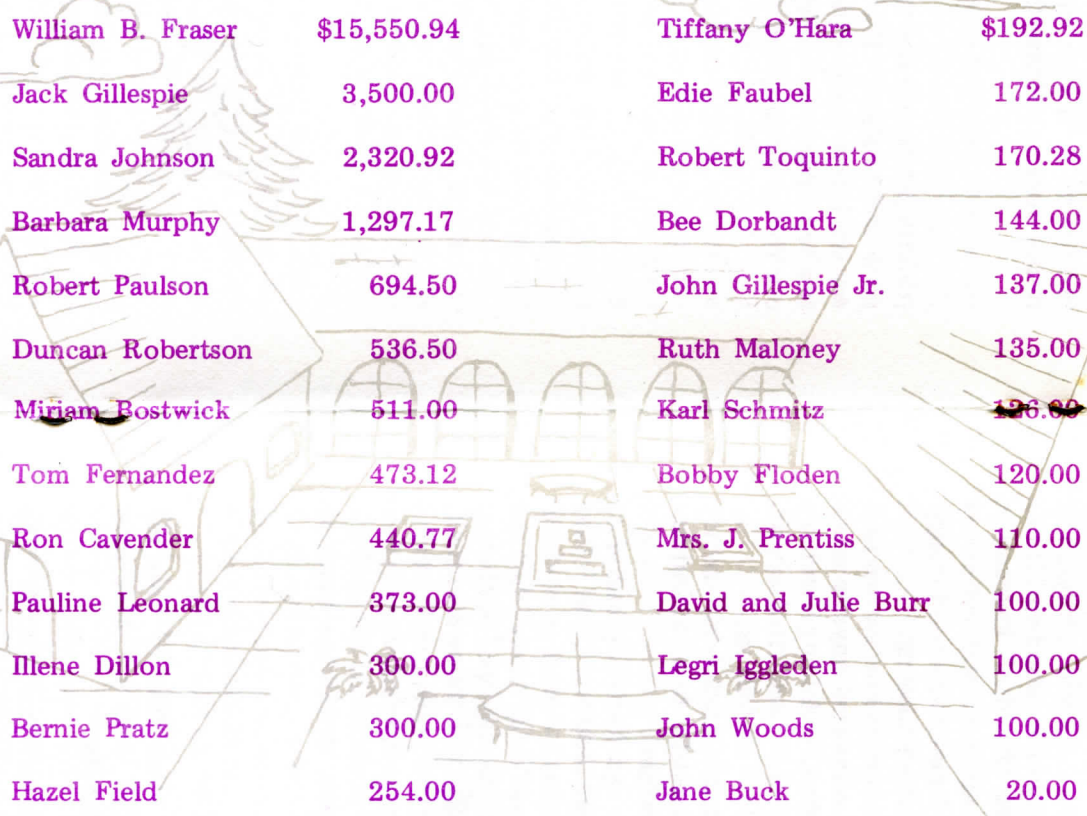
plete and perfect.” The spoken word has great energy and when we send this forth with feelings of courage and conviction, we can reprogram our computers and select a new tape, reclaiming our Divine birthright of perfect health.



Serenity Church Builders

GOAL: \$540,000

JANUARY 1973 TO DATE: \$28,425.04



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Jack Gillespie	3,500.00	Edie Faubel	172.00
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We gratefully acknowledge gifts made to the Serenity Church Building Fund. Donations and pledges may be made payable to Serenity Spiritualist Association. Contributions are deductible for Income tax purposes.

The Living Light

In this new book are the wonderful teachings of The Old Man, which were given as progressive lessons to a class in spiritual unfoldment through the Mediumship of Richard P. Goodwin. It has been nine years since the beginning of The Old Man's instruction directly through trance-voice. Again and again we are introduced to a continuing and tantalizing series of new subjects, lovingly explained and carefully attuned to our understanding.

The Old Man (we are never told his name) is one known as a Teacher of Light. He is a fine teacher; in a hundred ways he intertwines his allegory, progressive explanation, unfolding exercises and timely references to reach many levels of individual minds. "Think more often and think more deeply," he tells us.

In "The Living Light," he makes clear that his lessons are not dogma, creed or a narrow way, but his beautiful form of instruction to aid us in our own individual progression.

"The Living Light" is unique, the first and fresh expression of the individual understanding of a Great Teacher from other dimensions, understanding developed in him in centuries of study in higher realms. The lessons to be perceived are not new, they are very old, but they are alive and new to certain levels of our being. This is why they are given now, in our time, for those who seek. The way is not easy, but it is beautiful. In this book, gently taught in simple, direct language is a course of study and continuous inspirational and directive reading, for the study of the unfoldment of the spirit and psychical awareness, the Divine spark in every man.

Selected Passages:

Remember that he who loves himself more than he loves me shall lose himself to find me. But he who loves me more than he loves himself has found the truth—eternity.

Order now your copy of the limited deluxe first edition "The Living Light." \$10.60 per copy, plus \$.50 handling and mailing.

Mail order to:

Serenity Publications, P.O. Box 137, Forest Knolls, CA 94933

(Continued from Page 16)

knew not' (xlii 3.) And again, in chapter xxvi., verse 4, we find a question which indicates the belief in spirit possession, not by God directly, not by supernatural angels, but clearly by human spirits, thus: 'To whom hast thou uttered words, and *whose spirit came from thee?*' Evidently it was a common thing for mediums to be controlled by different spirits. Almost all the phenomena associated with modern mediumship can be paralleled with quotations from the Old and New Testaments.

Space will not permit of an extended list of proofs of the claims we have made, and a few illustrations must suffice.

CLAIRVOYANCE.—'Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the King of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bed-chamber' (2 Kings vi. 12.)

'And the Lord (spirit guide) opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and behold the mountain was full of horses and chariots as of fire round about Elisha.' (2 Kings, vi. 17.)

A SEANCE.—Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him. The king sent a man to him, *but ere he arrived*, Elisha said, See how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head, &c. (2 Kings, vi. 32.)

SPIRIT VOICES.—Samuel heard the 'voice' when in the Temple. Samuel was told 'in his ear' that Saul would visit him.

Peter heard the voice, 'Arise, Peter, kill and eat.'

Paul heard the voice, 'I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest.'

SPIRIT GUIDANCE.—Paul would have gone to Bithynia, 'but the spirit of Jesus suffered them not.'—Revised Version. (The King James version left out the words 'of Jesus,' which specify *who* the spirit was, and it is most probable that similar suppression of undesirable facts has occurred in other passages.) (Acts xvi. 7.)

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKING.—'Take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate; but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour that speak ye; for it is not ye that speak.' (Mark xiii. 11.) They 'began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.' (Acts ii. 4.) The narrative implies that these ignorant fishermen were controlled by spirits of different nationalities. How else could they have spoken in the languages of the various nations round about? It is not only far more reasonable, but, to our mind, the only probable explanation, to suppose that the inspiring spirits were departed Jews.



Cook Book Capers

APPLE PIE

¾ cup granulated sugar

1 tsp. cinnamon

¼ tsp. allspice

¼ tsp. nutmeg

6 cups of peeled, cored and sliced apples (1¾ to 2 lbs.)

1 Tbsp. lemon juice

2 Tbsp. butter, cut in pieces

Pastry for 9" two-crust pie

Heat oven to 375°. Combine sugar, cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg in a large mixing bowl. Add the apples and the lemon juice, and toss together gently but thoroughly. Heap into pastry-lined pie pan, mounding it somewhat higher in the center. Although the apple filling may appear quite high, it will shrink considerably during the baking. Dot the top of the filling with the 2 tablespoons of butter. Cover with top crust which has slits cut in it; seal and flute. Brush the pastry evenly with melted butter or sprinkled granulated sugar. Bake the pie in the middle of the oven for 40–50 minutes or until the crust is golden brown. Serve warm or at room temperature.

EDITOR'S NOTE—

The Sentinel extends its appreciation to the many students of the Serenity concept of Spiritualism who contribute their articles to this magazine, sharing their understanding with our readers. Student articles are recognized by an asterisk (*).

INVOCATION

O Great Infinite Intelligence, creative power of the Universe which gives to every form of life in nature's temple a voice of praise—to the songbirds in the trees, to the great deep that ceaselessly rolls its anthem and to the worlds that speed onward through limitless space. While we share in the joyfulness of the ever-living winds and waves, we know that in that higher temple, the temple of the soul there are voices that ever speak aloud for truth, for justice and for liberty. We are indeed grateful to know that the soul of man is immortal and that the Universe with all its sublimity, is the soul's eternal heritage. We are happy for the knowledge of the higher and diviner life, which even now stamps the living clay with the images of immortal thought and beauty. May the light of immortality which streams in and through the illuminated chambers of the human brain dispel the shadows of doubt and fear and terror of death. May the Star of Knowledge never fade, the Moon of Wisdom never be eclipsed and may the Sun of Spiritual Power eternally replenish its resplendent light. Amen.

LIFE'S ANCHOR

Beneath the strength and skill of the physical body, beneath the achievements and unrest of mortal mind lies the unperturbed soul of man, like the calm waters of the sea beneath the surging waves. Beneath the ever-changing mortal part of man lies the soul like an impenetrable rock beneath the shifting sands, anchoring man to earth until the experience of this terrestrial plane have prepared him for celestial existence.

That instinct for life, for immortality will not die. Life is written on the ascending scale. All are guided by the soul's conviction.

BENEDICTION

May the beacon light of truth flash its rays on our pathway through life, bringing peace, hope and joy into the lives of all. Amen.



Busy Bees

by Bee Dorbandt*

So many happy and beautiful events will take place during the month of February, the first being the birthday of our President and Founder, Mr. Richard P. Goodwin, which we will celebrate at our Dinner-Social entitled "A Birthday Party" on February 22, 1975. Our January dinner, "Scotland—Land of Enchantment", was well attended by members and students of Serenity, also many well-wishing friends were there. Our International Theme dinners are really a challenge to our cooks who do such a beautiful job in preparing the food, which is different each month. So far, we have had 11 wonderful dinners on as many different countries. We hope to see all of you at the "Birthday Party" on Saturday, February 22nd.

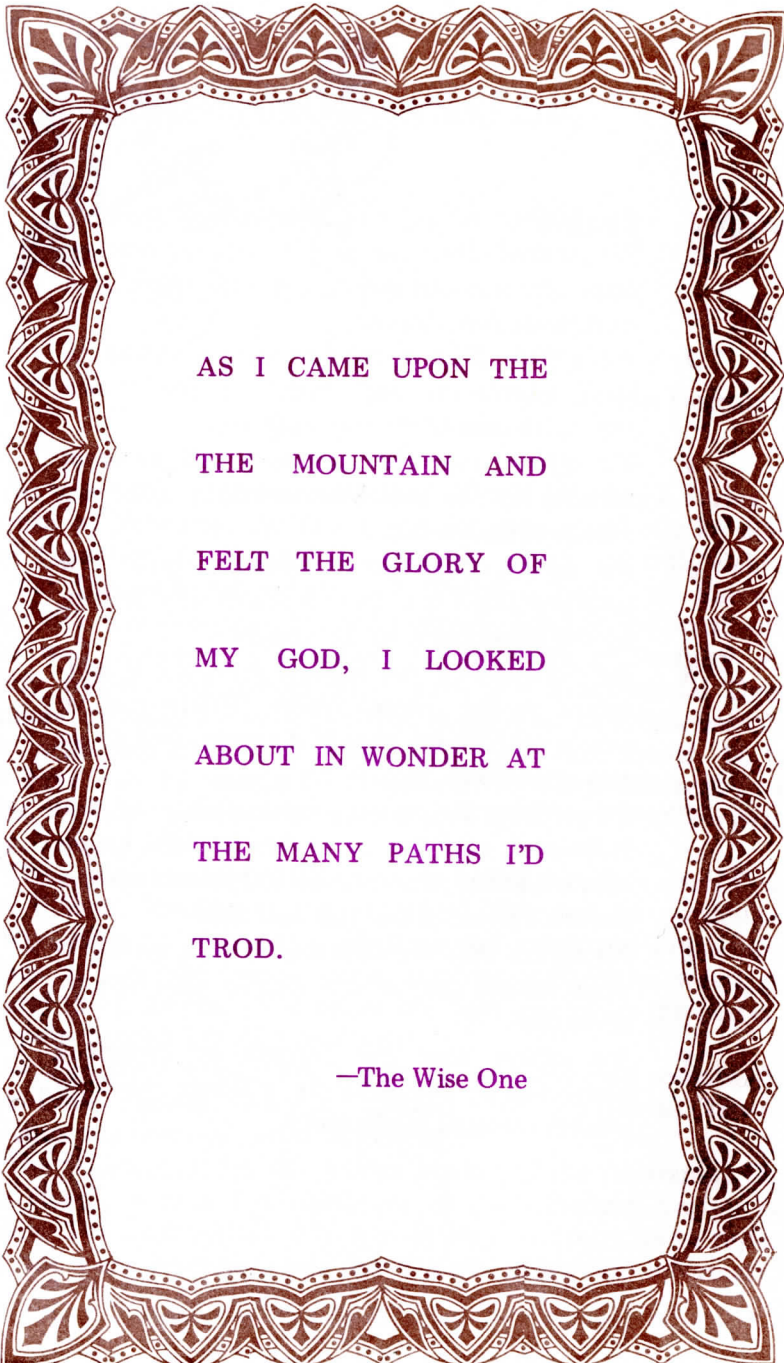
The regular monthly Bake Sale, to be held at Town and Country Village, Strawberry, on February 15th will be particularly lovely, with an abundance of decorated cakes and home-baked goods. If you like breads, cakes, cookies, and other sweets, do attend the Bake Sale. The prices are right and so are the hearts of the persons who bake for this event.

In January Serenity was happy to welcome into membership Mrs. Penny Pedrolí. Penny is a member of the Awareness Class and we sincerely welcome her into Serenity.

The registration for the winter session of the Awareness Class has closed, with a full classroom at the American Legion Log Cabin. The next session will start in May. If you wish to register for the next semester, call the Church office for information.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

1. *We believe in Infinite Intelligence.*
2. *We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.*
3. *We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith constitute true religion.*
4. *We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.*
5. *We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.*
6. *We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye also unto them."*
7. *We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual, and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys Nature's physical and spiritual laws.*
8. *We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any human soul here or hereafter.*
9. *We affirm that the Precept of Prophecy contained in the Bible is a Divine attribute proven through Mediumship.*



AS I CAME UPON THE
THE MOUNTAIN AND
FELT THE GLORY OF
MY GOD, I LOOKED
ABOUT IN WONDER AT
THE MANY PATHS I'D
TROD.

—The Wise One

BECOMING A SPIRITUALIST

“Obey My Voice and I Will Be Thy God”
by H. Gordon Burroughs

Continued from last issue—

“Obey my voice and I will be Thy God.” God does not need your praise. The law is above your praise, beyond your praise; it asks only that you conform consciously with its manifestation that it may become truly your God, your Good, your Guide.

But how are we going to hear this voice, and what sort of a voice is it going to be? It will be a gradual awakening when you have reached that state in which you can look about you and trust the Lord. The mystery is in first seeking the kingdom. The kingdom of what? The kingdom of innate contentment, the kingdom of innate knowing, the kingdom of innate thinking—belief which becomes knowledge.

Heaven is a state of happiness, not a location, a state of being in which contentment is. You are journeying this way at this time for a purpose; the earth is only a wayside station, a tavern in which you are residing for a few years in God’s immense eternity, and when you have ceased to exist in the tavern in which you are lodging, you will move on.

You have access to all there is. There is nothing in God’s universe that you may rightfully desire that you may not have. You are the one who inherits all that the law can produce; and you may receive all that you are capable of receiving as you grow to a greater consciousness of the immutability and the magnificence of the law.

When you reach that state of complacency, laying at the feet of the Lord your cares, your heartaches, your doubts, your misunderstandings, and when you can say, “I place all of these within the great and direct manifestation of Truth,” you have reached the state wherein you are obedient to the law. The voice lies buried deep within your consciousness. It is the response of the real you to the law, to the universe, to all there is. It is your attunement consciously to the symphony of eternity. It is your awakening to your awareness and place in the action and manifestation of law.



Lest We Forget

Florence S. Becker
The Cavender Family
Oscar Bon Dummitt
William B. Fraser
Isa A. Goodwin
Gretchen

Esta Hammel
Victoria Harding
Mike
Poppy
Willie

To send a helpful thought of joy and light to those you love who have passed to the higher life, list their names in this column. Donation of one dollar per name.

(Continued from Page 6)

things in space. I assure you, my good friends, there is no way that I have ever found of finding the fullness of God without expressing through the soul faculties of duty, gratitude and tolerance, of faith, poise and humility; our acceptance, which is, in truth, the Divine will. When we as individualized souls become less important, God, for us, will become more important. Then we will not have to worry about how thick or thin this great Divine Intelligence truly is, because we will be permeated with its light, with its love and with its truth.

Everyone, I know, wants to do the job that they have come to earth to do but let us not tell the Divine Intelligence how hard it is because by doing that, it becomes a lot harder than we think at this moment. When these experiences in life become such a struggle, remember the Divine demonstrable law, direct your Divinity to something else. Everyone it is said has a cross to bear but the cross is only the stepping stone to the crown of freedom. Only through a lack of understanding is man intolerant to the rest of God's creations. Let us not be so important in life that we know which path another human soul must walk. Let us not think in limited view. Let us encompass all of the children of God and that includes the animals and Nature herself. Let us not worry what our brother is doing, for that energy that we use for that level of consciousness is depriving that energy to heal our own mind, to heal our own body. Let us rather accept that we are an inseparable part of what is called a human race and let us accept that what one soul does, all souls are capable of doing. And we never know the moment of the hour when another soul will do what we think is such a sin. Let us remember as we look into this world, whatever experience we encounter, whatever we see another human soul doing, that we are an inseparable part of this human race and the potential of doing identically the same thing is ever at our fingertips and we never know because when we set the Law of Intolerance into motion, we guarantee that experience that we are intolerant of to come to us someday that we may be granted understanding for that level of consciousness because it exists within our own mind.

I assure you, my friends, our adversities not only become our attachments, they are the chains which bind us to hell itself. So, let us consider opening a new consciousness. Let us have the courage of our convictions. Let us commit ourselves to our own
(Continued on Page 33)



Poet's Pen

VASES

Two vases stood on the Shelf of Life
As Love came by to look,
One was of priceless cloisonne,
The other of solid common clay.
Which do you think Love took?

He took them both from the Shelf of Life,
He took them both with a smile;
He clasped them both with his finger tips,
And touched them both with caressing lips,
And held them both for a while.

From tired hands Love let them fall,
And never a word was spoken.
One was of priceless cloisonne,
The other of solid common clay.
Which do you think was broken?

—Nan Terrell Reed

FABLES FOR YOUNG AND OLD

THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

A Wolf grew tired of sneaking around the Shepherd and his dogs every time he wanted a fat sheep for dinner. Old Wolf didn't much like to think, but he began thinking about sheep. He remembered a sheepskin he had seen outside the Shepherd's house, and one day when the Shepherd and his dogs were out with the flock, the Wolf got the sheepskin and tied it onto his legs and back. He looked just like a big sheep.

Old Wolf had a time! The first day out he tricked a Lamb into following him into the woods, where he quickly ate the little fellow up. But one evening the Wolf went too far. He decided to go right into the pen with the sheep and spend the night feasting. In he went, and even the dogs didn't notice the Wolf's disguise.

In the evening the Shepherd came out to kill a sheep for his Sunday dinner. He reached for the first fat sheep he could find, and quickly cut its throat. Imagine his surprise when he discovered it was a Wolf he had killed!

—Don't pretend to be what you're not—

SERENITY CASSETTES

SERENITY CASSETTES — A new and exciting concept of learning and inspiration, giving you an opportunity to personally and privately study the higher spiritual teachings of THE LIVING LIGHT philosophy. Serenity Association proudly announces these are now available in cassette form.

The original discourses from THE LIVING LIGHT book, church lectures on such enlightening topics as "Acceptance, the Divine Will"; "Journey of the Soul"; and "The Wisdom of Tolerance" to name a few, plus numerous Spiritual Awareness Classes are a part of the series being offered. Utilizing a question and answer format, each Spiritual Awareness Class varies widely in topics covered. Answers are carefully attuned to the student's understanding. One class, for example, discusses the Divine merit system and the soul's evolutionary incarnation into form; explains that on earth one uses the soul faculty of faith to learn lessons; suggests how to determine one's lessons of life; shares an understanding of what determines the rapidity with which we experience the effects of a law we set into motion; discusses mental retardation; the wisdom of charity; the principle of duality; the principle of change; success and failure; the duty of the soul to produce in a world of creation.

THE LIVING LIGHT philosophy, patterned after life herself, is the understanding developed over centuries by The Wise One, a Great Teacher from the higher realms of Light. These teachings are brought to us through the trance-mediumship of Richard P. Goodwin.

These cassettes, electronically reproduced on the highest quality tape available, are individually priced at \$7.50 plus California State Tax and shipping charge of \$.50 each. They may be purchased for only \$6.00 plus tax and shipping charges by members of The Serenity Cassette Club, whose obligation is to buy twelve (12) cassettes per year.

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(Continued from Page 29)

God within our own consciousness because only through commitment to that which is our only light, can we truly be free. This body has come from nature and it shall return to nature, and when it starts in its process of returning back to the ground from whence it came, if you have not committed your mind, your soul and your spirit to what we call God, the Divine Intelligence, then you will have that great struggle and suffering to face for that has been your Divine right of choice. Thank you.

* * * * *

INSPIRATION

Oh, the little hands too skillful
 And the child mind choked with weeds!
 The daughter's heart grown willful,
 And the father's heart that bleeds!

No, no! from the street's rude bustle,
 From trophies of mart and stage,
 I would fly to the wood's low rustle
 And the meadows' kindly page.
 Let me dream as of old by the river,
 And be loved for the dream alway;
 For a dreamer lives forever,
 And a toiler dies in a day.

John Boyle O'Reilly

(Continued from Page 5)

God, by living in man's soul from the very beginning, revealed to his religious or wisdom faculties this law—"to be carnally-minded is death; to be spiritually-minded is life and peace."

How did God reveal this law?

God revealed this law, first, in the common relations subsisting between man and man; second, in the "still small voice" of integral perception of justice, called Intuition; third, by the various spirits and angels who presided and still continue to watch lovingly over the earth, and who sometimes spoke in visions to young men, in dreams to women, and through commandments to religious chieftains.

Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

The moral law, which signifies the immutable principle of JUSTICE everywhere manifested in the superlative Constitution of Father-God and Mother-Nature, is summed up and most beautifully expressed in the body and soul of Man.

Where is the moral law truly visible?

The moral law is fully and practically exhibited and fulfilled wherever a human being has attained entire Harmony—to the fullness of the stature of a perfect Man in Love and wisdom—by obedience to his own divinely-originated and supernally-authenticated twelve commandments.

What is the sum of the twelve commandments?

The sum of the twelve commandments is, to do good and harmonious works, for the redemption and ennoblement of your fellow-men. Such works to be purely "good" must be wrought regardless of age, sex, complexion, belief, or reputation; because the Human Race is but One Family—all members of one body—in which there is neither Jew nor Gentile, Nazarene nor Greek, Ethiopian nor Anglo-Saxon.

What is the preface to the twelve commandments?

The preface to the twelve commandments is in these words: "Write me as one who loves his fellow-men."

What does the preface to the twelve commandments teach us?

The preface to the twelve commandments teacheth us, that because man did not originate himself, but came into existence involuntarily as the Child of Father-God and Mother-Nature, therefore to love and improve and render happy the pathway of human beings is the best and highest and most acceptable homage the soul can pay to the "Great First Cause," which was before all things and in which all things exist.



THIS IS MY CHURCH

This is my Church.
It is composed of
people like me.
We make it what it is.

I want it to be a
Church that is a
lamp to the path
of pilgrims, leading
them to goodness,
truth and beauty.

It will be, if I am.

It will be friendly if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help to
fill them.
It will do a great work, if I work.
It will bring other people into its
worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

It will be a Church of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith, and a Church
with a noble spirit—if I, who make it
what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall
dedicate myself to the task of being
all of these things that I want my
Church to be.

—From “I Belong”
by Hoover Rupert

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